AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a list, as of this response, of the claims in this application, with status indicators. A detailed explanation is provided in the "Remarks" section of this amendment.

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A process for the cleaning of a towed seismic streamer, comprising the steps of:

attaching around the seismic streamer, a cleaning appliance including a tool for cleaning the seismic streamer and a hydrodynamic drag structure,

towing the seismic streamer, and

creating a drag with said hydrodynamic drag structure as the streamer is moved along its longitudinal axis, said drag having the effect of moving the cleaning appliance along the seismic streamer.

13. (Previously presented) A cleaning process according to claim 12, in which the speed of movement of the appliance along the seismic streamer is in a range of between 0.5 and 2.5 meters per second.

14. (Withdrawn) An appliance for the cleaning of an immersed or floating seismic streamer, comprising:

a tool for cleaning the seismic streamer,

a device for positioning and guiding the appliance along the length of the seismic streamer, and

a structure which, when the streamer is towed, is adapted to create a hydrodynamic drag that is sufficient to overcome the friction forces and cause the cleaning appliance to move along the seismic streamer.

15. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 14, which includes drive means for operating the cleaning tool upon movement of the appliance along the seismic streamer.

16. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 15, in which the cleaning tool includes at least two brushes, each brush being driven by a rotating roller driven by friction against the seismic streamer.

17. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 14, including a blade for removal of the incrustations attached to the seismic streamer.

18. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 14, in which said positioning and guiding device comprises a pair of wheels, rollers, runners, or pulleys adapted to roll or slide at low friction, respectively on two approximately diametrically opposite portions of the outer tubular surface of the seismic streamer.

19. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 18, wherein plural pairs of wheels, rollers, runners or pulleys are present.

20. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 14, further including a buoyancy member for allowing the cleaning appliance to maintain an approximately constant position during its movement along the towed streamer, and therefore an approximately constant orientation in relation to the longitudinal axis of the streamer, and wherein the cleaning appliance presents an approximately zero buoyancy in order not to interfere with the balance of the streamer.

21. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 14, in which said structure comprises two drag structures in the form of a throat, funnel, deflector or water sock, of approximately identical shape and dimensions, which are positioned symmetrically in relation to a central front-to-back plane and/or in relation to the guidance axis.

22. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 14, including a drag structure and a member for adjustment of the drag coefficient of the drag structure.

23. (Withdrawn) A cleaning appliance according to claim 14, including means for suspending said positioning and guiding device in relation to the chassis of the cleaning appliance.

24. (Previously presented) A cleaning process according to claim 12, comprising the steps of maintaining the cleaning appliance during its movement along the towed streamer in an approximately constant orientation in relation to the longitudinal axis of the streamer.

25. (Previously presented) A cleaning process according to claim 24, wherein said cleaning appliance is provided with buoyancy means.

26. (Previously presented) A cleaning process according to claim 12, comprising the step of positioning and guiding the cleaning appliance by means of at least one pair of members adapted to contact at low friction, respectively, approximately diametrically opposite portions of the outer tubular surface of the seismic streamer.

27. (Previously presented) A cleaning process according to claim 26, wherein said members are rollers.

28. (Previously presented) A cleaning process according to claim 27, comprising the step of cleaning the streamer by rotating at least two brushes positioned on either side of the streamer, said brushes being respectively driven by said rollers engaging the seismic streamer.

29. (Previously presented) A cleaning process according to claim 26, comprising the step for forcing said members into contact with the outer surface of the streamer and moving them away from said contact so as to allow clearance of projections present along the streamer.

30. (Previously presented) A process for the cleaning of a towed seismic streamer, comprising the steps of:

attaching around the seismic streamer a cleaning appliance including a tool for cleaning the seismic streamer and a hydrodynamic drag structure, and

towing the seismic streamer, whereby said hydrodynamic drag structure creates a drag as the streamer is moved along its longitudinal axis and said drag has the effect of moving the cleaning appliance along the seismic streamer, whilst maintaining the cleaning appliance during its movement along the towed streamer in

an approximately constant orientation in relation to the longitudinal axis of the streamer.

31. (Previously presented) A process for the cleaning of a towed seismic streamer equipped with appendages for controlling the depth of the streamer, comprising the steps of

attaching around the seismic streamer a cleaning appliance including a tool for cleaning the seismic streamer and a hydrodynamic drag structure, and

towing the seismic streamer, whereby said hydrodynamic drag structure creates a drag as the streamer is moved along its longitudinal axis and said drag has the effect of moving the cleaning appliance along the seismic streamer, whilst maintaining the cleaning appliance during its movement along the towed streamer in an approximately constant orientation in relation to the longitudinal axis of the streamer, astride said appendages.